

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7, and 9-20 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1, 12, and 15-16 are amended, and claims 5-6 and 8 are canceled without prejudice. Moreover, claims 17-20 are added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,188,752 to Lesley (hereinafter “Lesley”). As noted above, claims 6 and 8 are canceled without prejudice rendering the rejection to these claims moot. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As amended, claim 1 recites that a method for prepaid communications comprises receiving a predefined condition, wherein the predefined condition comprises a plurality of destination numbers; receiving a communications connection directed to a destination number; determining if the destination number of the received communications connection is one of the plurality of destination numbers of the predefined condition; and if the destination number of the received communications connection is one of the plurality of destination numbers of the predefined condition, then deducting the cost of the communications connection from the user account. Similarly, claim 15 recites that computer readable medium for prepaid communications comprises a second set of instructions for receiving a predefined condition, wherein the predefined condition comprises a plurality of destination numbers; a third set of instructions for receiving a communications connection directed to a destination number; a fourth set of instructions for determining if the destination number of the received communications connection is one of the plurality of destination numbers of the predefined condition; and a fifth set of instructions for deducting the cost of the communications connection from the user account if the destination number of the received communications connection is one of the plurality of destination numbers of the predefined condition.

Lesley does not teach or suggest a method or computer readable medium for prepaid communications as recited in claims 1 and 15, respectively. On the contrary, Lesley teaches a method for facilitating prepayment for communications services including detecting a request for prepay network service from a subscriber; requesting the subscriber to enter a security code or personal identification number in order to make sure the service request is authorized; if the request is authorized, then checking the subscriber's record to determine whether there is sufficient prepaid value in the subscriber's record to pay for the requested telecommunications service; and if so, authorizing the requested telecommunications service up to the prepaid amount stored in the subscriber's record. This is not analogous to the method or computer readable medium recited in claims 1 and 15, respectively, because Lesley fails to teach or suggest receiving a predefined condition comprising a plurality of destination numbers; determining if the destination number of the requested telecommunications service is one of the plurality of destination numbers of the predefined condition; and if the destination number of the requested telecommunications service is one of the plurality of destination numbers of the predefined condition, then deducting the cost of the requested telecommunications service from the user account. Instead, Lesley teaches authorizing the requested telecommunications service up to the prepaid amount stored in the subscriber's record if the entered personal identification number is authorized and the prepaid value in the subscriber's record is sufficient to pay for the requested telecommunications service, without suggesting also determining if the destination number of the requested telecommunications service matches one of the plurality of destination numbers of a predefined condition before authorizing the requested telecommunications service.

For at least the reasons given above, claims 1 and 15 are allowable over Lesley. Claims 2-4, 7, and 10-11 depend from claim 1 and are considered allowable over Lesley for at least these reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

As amended, claim 12 recites that a method for prepaid wireline comprises creating a plurality of user accounts associated with the origination number, wherein each of the plurality of user accounts is associated with a different access code; crediting a first

user account of the plurality of user accounts with a first prepaid credit amount, wherein the first user account comprises a first access code; crediting a second user account of the plurality of user accounts with a second prepaid credit amount, wherein the second user account comprises a second access code; receiving a proffered code; if the proffered code comprises the first access code, deducting the cost of the communications connection from the first prepaid credit amount; and if the proffered code comprises the second access code, deducting the cost of the communications connection from the second prepaid credit amount. Similarly, claim 16 recites that a computer readable medium for prepaid communications comprises a second set of instructions for creating a plurality of user accounts associated with the origination number, wherein each of the plurality of user accounts is associated with a different access code; a third set of instructions for crediting a first user account of the plurality of user accounts with a first prepaid credit amount, wherein the first user account includes a first access code; a fourth set of instructions for crediting a second user account of the plurality of user accounts with a second prepaid credit amount, wherein the second user account includes a second access code; a fifth set of instructions for detecting a code; a sixth set of instructions for deducting the cost of the communications connection from the first prepaid credit amount if the code is the first access code; and a seventh set of instructions for deducting the cost of the communications connection from the second prepaid credit amount if the code is the second access code.

Lesley does not teach a method or computer readable medium for prepaid communications as recited by claims 12 and 16, respectively. In contrast, Lesley teaches a method for facilitating prepayment for communication services including assigning a subscriber a database record that includes an account number corresponding to the number used to identify a subscriber's basic subscription to a prepayment service, an associated prepaid monetary value, and a personal identification number; detecting a request for prepay network service from a subscriber; requesting the subscriber to enter a security code or personal identification number in order to make sure the service request is authorized; if the request is authorized, then checking the subscriber's record to determine whether there is sufficient prepaid value in the subscriber's record to pay for the requested telecommunications service; and if so, authorizing the requested

telecommunications service up to the prepaid amount stored in the subscriber's record. This is not analogous to the method or computer readable medium as recited by claims 12 and 16, respectively, because Lesley fails to teach or suggest that a subscriber's database record can be associated with a plurality of user accounts each of which are associated with a different access code such that when an access code is received, the cost of the requested telecommunications service is deducted from the user account associated with the received access code.

For at least the reasons given above, claims 12 and 16 are allowable over Lesley. Claim 14 depends from claim 12 and is considered allowable over Lesley for at least these reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 5, 9, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lesley in view of United States Patent No. 6,195,422 to Jones et al. (hereinafter "Jones"). As noted above, claim 5 is rejected without prejudice rendering the rejection to this claim moot. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the reasons given above, claims 1 and 12 are allowable over Lesley. Claims 9 and 13 depend from claims 1 and 12, respectively, and are considered allowable over the combined teaching of Lesley and Jones for at least these reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

II. New Claims 17-20

New claims 17-20 are directed to further embodiments of Applicants' claimed invention. Support for new claim 17 may be found at page 11, lines 25-27 and page 14, line 5 through page 15, line 15 of the specification. Support for new claim 18 may be found at page 11, lines 28-29 and page 14, line 5 through page 15, line 15 of the specification. Support for new claim 19 may be found at page 14, line 5 through page 15, line 15 of the specification. Support for new claim 20 may be found at page 13, lines 12-28 and page 15, line 18 through page 17, line 5 of the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 17-20 are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons given above in regard to claims 1, 12, and 15-16.

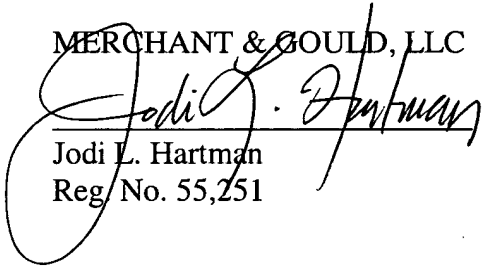
CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, Applicants assert that the pending claims 1-4, 7, and 9-20 are in condition for allowance. Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully request that the Examiner pass this application with claims 1-4, 7, and 9-20 to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at 404.954.5042.

Respectfully submitted,

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